On Tuesday, December 20, 2011 NASA conducted a drop test of Orion crew vehicle’s parachutes. This was all held over the Arizona desert. The test was successful which is good news for the crew, and NASA. Orion is important because It will be able to carry astronauts farther into space than before. It will also provide emergency abort capability, sustain the crew during space travel and ensure a safe re-entry and landing. The Orion test article was dropped at an altitude of 25,000 feet. This drop test determined how Orion would land under two possible failure scenarios. To better manage the stress on the parachutes, they are designed to open in stages. These stages are called reefing. This test of reefing was executed to determine how the parachutes would perform if the second part of the sequence was skipped. The second procedure they performed was a failure of deployment of Orion’s three main parachutes. The failure of deployment would force Orion to land with only two parachutes. The lessons that NASA learned during this testing have improved the parachute system used in Orion.